

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A tooth whitening set for reversible making tooth look white in the presence of water from saliva without chemical bleaching reactions due to a peroxide, comprising a nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening and a tool for its application which is detachably fitted to teeth while holding it,

said nonaqueous gel composition comprising:

(A) a tooth whitening ingredient having a relative permittivity of 17.0 to 43.0 (at 25°C) and a vapor pressure of 0 to 7000 kPa (at 25°C), said tooth whitening ingredient (A) is selected from the group consisting of isopropanol, butanol, ethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol with an average molecular weight of 190 to 630, diethylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, butylene glycol, and glycerin,

(B) a substance which dissolves in said tooth whitening ingredient and is precipitated by an aqueous solution of calcium chloride, and

(C) a gelling agent,

said composition being substantially free of water and peroxide, and

said tool for its application being a tape, sheet or film which retains and keeps the composition in position in contact with teeth for 1 to 120 minutes by covering the composition and preventing the dilution of the composition by invasion of saliva to ensure that the tooth whitening ingredient infiltrates into an enamel through its surface and to remain in the enamel, thereby changing optical properties of the enamel without chemical reactions so that the enamel looks apparently cloudy and whiter than original.

24. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 23, wherein the tooth whitening ingredient (A) is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol with an average molecular weight of 190 to 630, butylene glycol, and glycerin.

25. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 23, wherein the substance (B) is at least one selected from the group consisting of myristic acid, 7-hydroxymyristic acid, jaluric acid, 9,10,16-trihydroxypalmitic acid, palmitoleic acid, 12-hydroxystearic acid, isostearic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, erucic acid, shellac, t-Bu acrylate/ethyl acrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer, methyl acrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer, methyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer, acrylic acid/acrylamide/ethyl acrylate copolymer, octylacrylamide/acrylate ester copolymer, and

methyl methacrylate/ethyl acrylate/methacrylic acid trimethylammonium ethyl chloride copolymer.

26. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 23, wherein the substance (B) is at least one selected from the group consisting of isostearic acid, shellac, t-Bu acrylate/ethyl acrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer, acrylic acid/acrylamide/ethyl acrylate copolymer, octylacrylamide/acrylate ester copolymer, and methyl methacrylate/ethyl acrylate/methacrylic acid trimethylammonium ethyl chloride copolymer.

27. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 23, wherein the gelling agent (C) is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid, carboxyvinyl polymer, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, and salts thereof.

28. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 23, wherein the tooth whitening ingredient (A) accounts for 50.0 to 99.5 % by weight of the total amount of the composition, the substance (B) accounts for 0.1 to 10 % by weight of the total amount of the composition, and the gelling agent (C) accounts for 0.1 to 15 % by weight of the total amount of the composition.

29. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 23, wherein the substance (B) is at least two or more selected from the group consisting of C₁₄₋₂₂ higher fatty acids and acrylic acid copolymers.

30. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 23, wherein said tool for application is made of water-insoluble material, which gives a pleasant feeling in the mouth and prevents excess salivation during use, thereby permitting the gel composition to stay in the mouth for a long period of time, and

said material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, formed polyethylene, polypropylene, formed polypropylene, polyester, polyurethane, rayon, pulp, cotton, silk, paper, metal foil, silicone rubber, natural rubber, vinyl acetate resin, acrylic resin and ethylene-vinyl acetate resin.

31. (New) A tooth whitening set for reversible making tooth look white in the presence of water from saliva without chemical bleaching reactions due to a peroxide, comprising a nonaqueous gel composition for tooth whitening and a tool for its application which is detachably fitted to teeth while holding it, said nonaqueous gel composition comprising:

(A) a tooth whitening ingredient having a relative permittivity of 17.0 to 43.0 (at 25°C) and a vapor pressure of 0 to 7000 kPa (at 25°C),

(B) a substance which dissolves in said tooth whitening ingredient and is precipitated by an aqueous solution of calcium chloride, said substance (B) is at least one selected from the group consisting of C₁₄₋₂₂ higher fatty acids and/or acrylic acid copolymers, and

(C) a gelling agent,

said composition being substantially free of water and peroxide, and

said tool for its application being a tape, sheet or film which retains and keeps the composition in position in contact with teeth for 1 to 120 minutes by covering the composition

and preventing the dilution of the composition by invasion of saliva to ensure that the tooth whitening ingredient infiltrates into an enamel through its surface and to remain in the enamel, thereby changing optical properties of the enamel without chemical reactions so that the enamel looks apparently cloudy and whiter than original.

32. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 31, wherein the tooth whitening ingredient (A) is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol with an average molecular weight of 190 to 630, butylene glycol, and glycerin.

33. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 31, wherein the substance (B) is at least one selected from the group consisting of myristic acid, 7-hydroxymyristic acid, jalaric acid, 9,10,16-trihydroxypalmitic acid, palmitoleic acid, 12-hydroxystearic acid, isostearic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, erucic acid, shellac, t-Bu acrylate/ethyl acrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer, methyl acrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer, methyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer, acrylic acid/acrylamide/ethyl acrylate copolymer, octylacrylamide/acrylate ester copolymer, and methyl methacrylate/ethyl acrylate/methacrylic acid trimethylammonium ethyl chloride copolymer.

34. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 31, wherein the substance (B) is at least one selected from the group consisting of isostearic acid, shellac, t-Bu acrylate/ethyl acrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer, acrylic acid/acrylamide/ethyl acrylate copolymer, octylacrylamide/acrylate ester copolymer, and methyl methacrylate/ethyl acrylate/methacrylic acid trimethylammonium ethyl chloride copolymer.

35. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 31, wherein the gelling agent (C) is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid, carboxyvinyl polymer, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, and salts thereof.

36. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 31, wherein the tooth whitening ingredient (A) accounts for 50.0 to 99.5 % by weight of the total amount of the composition, the substance (B) accounts for 0.1 to 10 % by weight of the total amount of the composition, and the gelling agent (C) accounts for 0.1 to 15 % by weight of the total amount of the composition.

37. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 31, wherein the substance (B) is at least two or more selected from the group consisting of C₁₄₋₂₂ higher fatty acids and acrylic acid copolymers.

38. (New) The tooth whitening set as defined in claim 31, wherein said tool for application is made of water-insoluble material, which gives a pleasant feeling in the mouth and

prevents excess salivation during use, thereby permitting the gel composition to stay in the mouth for a long period of time, and

said material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, formed polyethylene, polypropylene, formed polypropylene, polyester, polyurethane, rayon, pulp, cotton, silk, paper, metal foil, silicone rubber, natural rubber, vinyl acetate resin, acrylic resin and ethylene-vinyl acetate resin.

39. (New) A method for reversibly making teeth look white in the presence of water from saliva without chemical bleaching reaction due to a peroxide,

said method comprising applying a tape sheet or film having a nonaqueous gel composition,

said gel composition comprising:

(A) a tooth whitening ingredient having a relative permittivity of 17.0 to 43.0 (at 25°C) and a vapor pressure of 0 to 7000 kPa (at 25°C),

(B) a substance which dissolves in said tooth whitening ingredient and is precipitated by an aqueous solution of calcium chloride, and

(C) a gelling agent,

said composition being substantially free of water and a bleaching agent including a peroxide, and

said composition coated thereon to teeth for 1 to 120 minutes so that the composition is stuck to teeth and covered by the tape, sheet or film thereby preventing the composition from being diluted by invasion of saliva,

said tooth whitening ingredient (A) is selected from the group consisting of isopropanol, butanol, ethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol with an average molecular weight of 190 to 630, diethylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, butylene glycol, and glycerin,

said tooth whitening ingredient infiltrates into an enamel through its surface and to remain in the enamel, thereby changing optical properties of the enamel without chemical reactions so that the enamel looks apparently cloudy and whiter than original, and

after whitening, said one or more tooth whitening ingredients in the enamel is replaced by water from saliva, thereby going back to the original color of the enamel reversibly.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the substance (B) is at least one selected from the group consisting of C₁₄₋₂₂ higher fatty acids and acrylic acid copolymers.